1899=1900.

# PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Palmer, Mass.







1899=1900.

# PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Palmer, Mass.

# School Committee, 1899-1900.

-CHARLES E. FISH, Chairman. A. C. THOMPSON, Secretary and Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE:—High School Building. OFFICE HOURS:—8 to 8.30 a. m. daily, 9 to 11 Saturdays. Telephone Call (Superintendent's residence), 35-5.

Frank A. Ruggles,	Term	expires	1900
Charles N. Shaw,	"	"	1900
Charles E. Fish,	44	ec	1901
WILLIAM E. McDonald,	"	"	1901
C. H. Hobbs,	"	"	1902
REV. OMER G. PETRIE,	"	"	1902

Regular meeting of the School Committee at 7.30 p.m. on the Monday before the last Friday of each month.

BILLS:—All bills must be in the hands of the Superintendent on or before the above day.

#### TRUANT OFFICERS.

John P. Eastman,	Depot
WILLIAM PRAIRE,	Three Rivers
John F. Luman,	Thorndike
C. E. SHUMWAY,	Bondsville

#### JANITORS.

H. L. Gray,	Depot
WILLIAM PRAIRE,	Three Rivers
H. T. BISHOP,	Thorndike*
C. E. FULLER,	Bondsville

#### Calendar.

#### SCHOOL YEAR, 1900-1901.

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

Winter term began January 2, 1900; ends April 6, 1900. Summer term begins April 23, 1900; ends June 29, 1900. Fall term begins September 4, 1900; ends December 21, 1900. Winter term begins January 1, 1901; ends March 29, 1901. Summer term begins April 15, 1901; ends June 28, 1901.

#### OTHER SCHOOLS.

Winter term began January 2, 1900; ends April 6, 1900. Summer term begins April 23, 1900; ends June 22, 1900. Fall term begins September 4, 1900; ends December 14, 1900. Winter term begins January 1, 1901; ends March 29, 1901. Summer term begins April 15, 1901; ends June 21, 1901.

#### VACATIONS-HIGH SCHOOL.

April 7 to April 23; June 30 to September 4; November 29 to December 3; December 22 to January 1; March 30 to April 15.

#### OTHER SCHOOLS.

April 7 to April 23; June 23 to September 4; November 29 to December 3; December 15 to January 1; March 30 to April 15.

#### HOLIDAYS.

Saturdays, February 22d, April 19th, May 30th, Labor Day.

## School Committee's Report.

To the Citizens of Palmer:-

The report of the School Committee for the year ending March 1, 1900, is hereby respectfully presented.

The fiscal year for this department, in common with all other departments of the town, closes March 1st. In the school reports previous to the one for the year 1897–1898, the report relative to attendance has been submitted for the same period of time. In the report of 1897–1898 attendance data for the school year which ended July 1, 1897, was given. In the report of 1898–1899 attendance data for the school year which ended July 1, 1898, was given. In this report attendance data for the school year which ended July 1, 1899, is given.

The new school census (Chapter 496, Acts of 1898, Section 13) was taken for the first time in September, 1899. The figures in the Superintendent's report relative to the number of children in town are taken from this census. This form of report is made agreeable to recommendations of the Secretary of the State Board of Education. Extracts from his recommendations follow:—

"It is recommended that, in all towns and cities that do not already require it, school registers shall be opened and enrollment lists begun at that time (September of each year), and that school attendance facts shall be determined for a school year beginning at that time. The attendance facts for a majority of the children in the state are already determined for such a school year.

"In the school returns to be made to the State Board of Education, on or before April 30, 1901, it is desired that school attendance data from every town and city shall cover the school year that ends in June, 1900. Towns and cities that can report on or before April 30, 1900, attendance data for the school year ending in June, 1899, on or before April 30, 1899, attendance data for the school year ending in June, 1898, are requested to do so. "If in changing to the new school year recommended, there is a duplication of returns to the state because of the overlapping of school years, there is no objection so long as the returns made cover a full year.

"Money returns of school expenditures must be made up, as heretofore, from the fiscal years of the towns and cities, whatever those
fiscal years may be. The fact that money returns and attendance
returns do not, and, under present conditions, cannot, cover precisely the same year throughout the state, does not materially impair
the usual conclusions that are drawn from the relations of the one
set to the other."

The Committee gives the above explanation, as it doesn't seem to be generally understood that the method of procedure in the school reports is in accordance with the suggestions from the Secretary of the State Board, as quoted above.

#### SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS.

In the High School, to which pupils come from all parts of the town, there are four teachers. For pupils below the high school grade there are seven schools in the Depot Village, six in Thorndike, five in Three Rivers, five in Bondsville, and six District schools. We have a supervisor of drawing, and a supervisor of music. There are employed in our schools thirty-five teachers, including the superintendent, who is also principal of the high school. For the last school year the total enrollment of pupils was 1304.

There have been two changes in the location of schools during the past year. The pressure on the old building in the Depot Village was relieved by opening a school in the Opera House. The district school at Blanchardville was reopened.

The school accommodation is now adequate with two exceptions. At Three Rivers it will be necessary to open another school. Fortunately there is an extra room in the Three Rivers building which can be used for this purpose. In the first grade room at Three Rivers there are now over eighty pupils. By any arrangement which can be made it is impossible, without increasing the teaching force, to give the children of this grade proper instruction.

It is understood that more men are to be employed at the wire mill. If there is an increase in the number of school children in this district the extra room at the wire mill schoolhouse will have to be

furnished and fitted up and another teacher placed there. At present there are about thirty-five pupils in attendance, which is a larger number than can be properly instructed in an ungraded school. This would not require much additional expense if the town would vote to close the Blanchardville school, which has only ten pupils in It seems to the Committee that this should be done. There is now a good road between the Palmer Grammar school building and Blanchardville. It would not impose on the people of that district a hardship. The children would receive better instruction in the graded village school than it is possible for them to receive in a district ungraded school. Also transportation could be given them between Thanksgiving and Easter. We believe that by this arrangement the best interests of the people of the Blanchardville district and also the best interests of the town would be subserved.

#### BUILDINGS.

Our school buildings are in good condition, with the exception of the Grammar school building in the Depot Village. Since the town has appointed a special committee to examine that building and make recommendations respecting it at the next town meeting, it is unnecessary to say anything at this time except to call attention to what the School Committee said in its last report.

During the past year an extra room has been given the High school by furnishing a room in the tower of the high school building at an expense of about \$200. About \$75 has been expended at the Three Rivers building, concreting the walks and grading the front. The Shorley schoolhouse has been shingled. Repairs have also been made where needed on the other school buildings. Now all of our school buildings are in good repair except the Grammar school building in the Depot Village.

#### TEACHERS.

We believe that our teachers have worked faithfully for the interests of the pupils in their charge. During the past year very few complaints have been made to the Committee. We recommend in all cases that persons before making complaint visit the schools, and inform themselves thoroughly of existing conditions. We feel sure that when the parents and teachers work together, results are much more satisfactory.

Our superintendent and a large number of the teachers have attended summer schools. Almost all of the teachers take educational papers, and do some professional study in connection with their school work. This is evidence that there is a spirit of progression in our teaching force.

#### APPROPRIATIONS.

The strictest economy has been practised by the School Committee consistent with intelligent progress and the best interests of the pupils and people of the town. Last March the Committee asked for a special appropriation of \$1000 for extra school room, promising to return to the town the balance not used for that purpose. As our financial report will show we have returned the unexpended balance from that appropriation, together with \$329.08 from the regular school appropriation. This year the Committee asks for a special appropriation of \$1000 for the extra schoolrooms needed at Three Rivers and the Wire Mill, giving assurance that all money not used for that purpose will be returned. To meet the necessary school expenses for the coming year it is recommended that the sum of \$20,000 be raised and appropriated as follows:

Teachers' salaries,	\$13,900.00
Contingencies and Superintendent,	900.00
Fuel,	1,500.00
Text books and supplies,	1,000.00
Repairs,	500.00
Transportation,	800.00
Drawing,	400.00
Janitors,	1,000.00
Total.	\$20,000.00

The following special appropriations are also recommended:

Insurance of school buildings,	\$ 438.75
Music,	400.00
Extra schoolroom.	1,000.00

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES E. FISH,
FRANK A. RUGGLES,
CHARLES N. SHAW,
WILLIAM E. McDONALD,
C. H. HOBBS,
OMER G. PETRIE,

# Report of Superintendent of Schools.

To the School Committee of the Town of Palmer: -

GENTLEMEN:—My third report is herewith respectfully submitted for your consideration. This report constitutes the seventh of the series of annual reports of the Superintendent of Schools of the town of Palmer.

#### SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

#### CENSUS AND GENERAL ATTENDANCE.

Population of Palmer, (estimated Palmer Directory,) Number of children in town, September 1, 1899, between of five and fifteen, according to the school census:	8,200 een the ages
Boys,	561
Girls,	594
·	
Total,	1155
Boys between the ages of seven and fourteen,	414
Girls between the ages of seven and fourteen,	458
	973
Total,	872
Male illiterate minors over fourteen years of age,	$\frac{2}{3}$
Female illiterate minors over fourteen years of age,	3
Total,	5
	U
Number enrolled in all schools:	
Boys,	630
Girls,	674
Total,	$\frac{-}{1304}$
Number under 5,	9
Number over 15,	101
Number between 7 and 14,	910
Average membership for the year,	1050.51
Average attendance for the year,	972.41
Per cent of attendance,	92.01

#### COMPARISON FOR TEN YEARS.

YEAR.	'90 '91	1891–2	1892-3	1893-4	1894-5	1895-6	1896-7	1897-8	1898-9	'99 '00
Average membership Average Attendance Per Cent Attendance	838.9	851.0	866.5	825.1	858.2	900.7	913.6	953.83 890.64 92.23	963.94	1050.51 972.41 92.01

#### TABLE OF TARDINESS.

SCHOOLS.	1894-5	1895-6	1896-7	1897-8	1898–9	'99–'00
High School	186	150	97	69	140	150
Palmer	478	401	184	175	215	184
Three Rivers	303	273	211	174	87	86
Thorndike	691	136	92	101	78	37
Bondsville	179	108	53	42	56	41
Wire Mill	95	75	44	49	53	54
Center	200	*54	†51	69	68	145
Mason	83	39	0	0	13	25
Shorley	99	*12	+37	56	155	22
Whiting	closed	• • • • •	†33	71	46	8
Total	${2,314}$	1,248	802	806	911	752

<sup>\*</sup>One term. †Two terms.

#### TABLE OF DISMISSALS.

,	1896-7.		1897-8.		1898-9.		1899-1900.	
SCHOOLS.	Times Dis- missed.	Hours Lost.	Times Dis- missed.	Hours Lost.	Times Dis- missed.	Hours Lost.	Times Dis- missed.	Hours Lost.
High School Palmer. Three Rivers Thorndike Bondsville. Center Wire Mill Shorley Mason Whiting	628 550 176 533 99 43 11	184 622 514 110 224 93 34 20 3	121 783 574 258 512 221 40 18 2 12	175 1,096 608 252 199 390 28 28 2 24	171 807 744 476 298 575 36 16 0	113 635 516 401 145 417 35 59	201 501 492 356 320 325 67 16 25	127 402 503 106 160 212 35 36 8 2
Totals	2,180	1,813	2,541	2,802	3,133	2,333	2,304	1,591

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#### ATTENDANCE BY SCHOOLS.

SCHOOL.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per Cent of Attendance.	Enroll- ment.	
High	76.5	74.14	96.89	90	
PALMER—					
Grades 7, 8 and 9	47.2	44.77	94.89	54	
Grades 6 and 7	32.42	30.76	94.87	38	
Grades 4 and 5	45.46	42.03	92.18	53	
Grades 3 and 4	47.37	44.23	93.23	56	
Grades 2 and 3	52.47	49.02	93.37	57	
Grade 1	37.38	33.32	89.14	53	
Thorndike—				-	
Grades 7, 8 and 9	23.99	22.96	95.61	29	
Grades 5 and 6	28.09	26.41	94.06	31	
Grades 4 and 5	42.	40.49	96.02	42	
Grade 3	50.74	48.44	95.59	64	
Grade 2	45.54	44.	95.15	53	
Grade 1	45.33	43.	94.48	53	
Three Rivers—					
Grades 7, 8 and 9	28.5	24.12	96.28	40	
Grades 5 and 6	37.87	36.11	95.36	65	
Grades 3 and 4	46.24	43.26	93.71	56	
Grade 2	34.78	32.6	93.92	48	
Grade 1	46.02	43.05	93.41	72	
Bondsville—					
Grades 7, 8 and 9	29.9	27.45	95.17	32	
Grades 5 and 6	38.86	35.58	90.	44	
Grades 3 and 4	47.03	41.94	88.	53	
Grades 2 and 3	40.19	35.72	88.	48	
Grade 1	37.57	32.82	88.	47	
DISTRICTS—			-		
Wire Mill	26.28	22.87	87.02	37	
Shorley	16.34	13.25	83.1	24	
Center	25.57	22.56	88.23	34	
Mason	11.7	9.7	82.91	18	
Whiting	9.17	7.81	87.7	13	

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#### TABLE OF COST.

	1894-5	1895-6	1896-7	1897-8	1898-9	1899-1900
Teachers	\$11,919.00	\$12,518.92	\$19,919 18	\$13,771.66 150.00	\$14,058.96 352.88	\$14,026.54 472.01
Janitors	969.00	1,013.36	1,052.18	1,026.92	1,171.80	1,207.00
Contingencies	420.85	559.80	†1,174.58	1,364.10	996.08	937.93
Supervision Text books and sup-	1,591.67	1,600.00	1,050.00	1,304.10	990.08	951.95
plies	1,095.17 $1,514.37$	1,393.40	1,037.26 *373.24	1,069.64	1,363.71	1,829.16
Repairs	*461.42	581.55	964.55	448.75	704.18	440.56
Fuel	1,375.68	1,148.91	1,478.67	1.427.45	1,493.41	1,468.82
Transportation	1,679 90	1,957.60	1,549.70	1,312.00	980 69	734.96
Drawing Extra schoolroom	15.00	300.00	409.08	405.25	350.00	400 00 748.86
Totals	\$21,042 06	\$21,073.54	\$22,008.36	\$20,975.77	\$21,471 71	\$22,265.84
Av. membership ····	919.7	967.5	981.8	953.83	1,023.20	1 050.51
Av. attendance Cost, per pupil,	858.2	900.7	913.6	890.64	963.94	972.41
based on average membership Cost, per pupil,	\$22.88	\$21.78	\$22.51	\$21.99	\$20.98	\$21.20
based on average attendance	24.52	23 39	24.08	23.55	22.27	22.90

<sup>\*</sup>These sums are special appropriations, but are figured in the total school expense.

<sup>†</sup>This sum includes the special appropriation of \$500 for insurance on the new Thorndike building.

#### Roll of Honor.

#### SCHOOLS BELOW THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Pupils neither absent nor tardy Pupils not absent during the during the year.

#### PALMER GRAMMAR.

Room 1.

Edward C. Maxwell. Elizabeth Chalk.

Room 2.

Olive H. Pope.

Room 3.

Edwin T. Prindle. Daniel J. Harrington.

Room 4. Adeline R. Coles.

Vivian E. Wright.

Room 5.

Alice Costello.

#### THORNDIKE GRAMMAR.

Room 1.

Bessie J. Trumble.

Euclide Furkey.

Room 2.

Annie M. Bouthillier.

Annie M. Brosnan.

Room 5.

Telesphore Bouthillier.

Eva M. Fountain.

ROOM 6.

Calastigne Archambault.

Walter Fontaine.

Aldora St. Jacque.

Frank Younge.

#### BONDSVILLE GRAMMAR.

Room 1.

Ralph O. Hayes.

Room 3.

Lara Cote.

#### THREE RIVERS GRAMMAR.

Room 1.

Vina R. Freak.

Glennon L. Paine.

May M. Senton.

Room 2.

Lila Fish.

George Paulin.

Room 3.

Willie Tannebring.

Room 4.

Emma Barber.

Room 5.

Florence Collins.

Chester Tannebring.

DISTRICTS.

SHORLEY.

Joseph E. Kerigan. Nelson St. John. Rose St. John.

CENTER.

Agnes L. Mahoney. Lillian A. Mahoney.

#### TRUANCY.

In the Depot Village seven cases have been reported to the truant officer, and investigated by him. All of them were returned to school. Four were found to be genuine cases of truancy.

In Thorndike eight cases were reported by the teacher to the truant officer. All were investigated. Three were found to be genuine cases of truancy and returned to school.

In Three Rivers eight cases were reported to the truant officer. One was found to be a genuine case of truancy. Three were returned to school.

In Bondsville five cases were reported to the truant officer. Three were investigated, none of which were found to be genuine cases of truancy. Two were returned to school.

During this year none have been sentenced to the Truant School.

#### "NO-SCHOOL" SIGNAL.

Arrangements have been made so that a "no-school" signal can be given in every precinct.

The fire district in Palmer voted to permit the use of the fire alarm bell for this purpose. In the other precincts the mill agents placed on their mills the steam chime whistles purchased by the School Committee, and have kindly consented to have the signal given on them. The signal is given by direction of the Superintendent of Schools.

The School Committee has adopted the following regulations respecting the "no-school" signal:

The "no-school" signal, when given at eight o'clock a. m., indicates that there will be no morning session in the schools.

When given at 11.45 a.m., indicates that there will be no afternoon session.

The "no-school" signal in precinct A will be given on the fire alarm by three strokes of the bell twice repeated, making nine strokes in all, thus: \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

In the other precincts the "no-school" signal will be given by three blasts on the steam chime whistles, each blast from 3 to 5 seconds duration, a pause between each blast of from 3 to 5 seconds, thus:

The "no-school" signal does not affect the high school; sessions are held there every school day.

The signal will never be given in the morning unless the weather is very inclement. During the morning session pupils do the best work, and it is very desirable to have at least one session every school day. The afternoon session will be given up whenever the weather is sufficiently severe to endanger the health of the children. It is believed that this arrangement meets with the general approval of parents.

#### GRAMMAR SCHOOL GRADUATES.

CLASS OF 1899.

#### PALMER.

†*Francis Brown Barton,	†*Pearl Esther Fish,
Mamie Loretta Callahan,	†*Bridget Agatha Hopkins,
†*Rodney Clark Caryl,	†*Maude Theresa McBride,
*Edward John Collis,	†*John Raymond Milligan,
*James Francis Dawson,	Iona Lena Rhodes,
†*Michael John Dillon,	†*Grace Cooke Strong,
*Grace May Ferry,	Annie Gertrude Welch.

#### THORNDIKE.

John George Bishop,	Adelard Rouillard,
†*Flora Lena Morey,	†*Bessie Jane Trumble,
*Charles Edwin	Walker.

#### BONDSVILLE.

Rose Ann Arecotte,	*Harold Arthur Lee,
Nellie May Collins,	Thomas Patrick Lyons,
†*Margaret Donovan,	†*Lydia Belle Marsan,
Otis Ellsworth Dustin,	†*Michael John Moriarty,
†*John Francis Griffin,	†*Elizabeth Dickson Russell,
*Bessie May Hamblen,	†*Elizabeth May Sullivan.

The twenty-two whose names are marked thus \* entered the High School.

The sixteen whose names are marked thus † chose the four years' course; the others chose the three years' course.

Eight entered the freshman class from other schools.

There was no ninth grade at Three Rivers. Instead of the usual graduating exercises the school gave a very creditable school exhibition for closing exercises.

# COURSES OF STUDY, PALMER HIGH SCHOOL.

Fourth Year.	Third Year.	Second Year.	First Year.
Latin, English Literature, Greek, Civics. Review Mathematics,	Latin, English Literature and Composition, Greek, U. S. History, Botany or Geology,	Latin, Geometry, Greek, English History,	Algebra, Latin, English Composition, Greek and Roman History, Elementary Physics,
160 160 80 120	160 160 200 100	180 160 200 100	*160 200 40 100 120
French, Literature, English Literature, Civics, Civics, Options, Options, Latin, Physiology and two Sciences, Solid Geometry and Trigonometry,	Latin, English Literature and Composition, Advanced Physics, U.S. History, French,	Latin, Geometry, Geometry, English Literature, English History, Chemistry,	Algebra, LATIN-SCIENTIFIC. Latin, S English Composition, Greek and Roman History, Elementary Physics,
160 160 160 160 160	150 160 160 160 160	180 100 120	160 200 40 100 120
*Denotes the number of exercises for the year. Drawing optional after the first year. Declamations and Essays throughout the course.	Astronomy, 60 English Literature and Composition, 160 Advanced Physics, 100 U.S. History, 80 Civics, 80 Physical Geography, 60 Review Mathematics, 120	Geology, fall, Geometry, English Literature, English History, Chemistry, Physiology, winter, Botany, spring, 60	ENGLISH; THREE YEARS.  A lgebra, Bookkeeping, Bookkeeping

#### EXPLANATION OF COURSES.

Tho classical course fits for any New England college except Harvard and Yale; some cities, even, do not arrange their courses to meet the demands of these two universities. This course is intended for those who desire to compete for College A. B. All others are advised not to take it, as experience has proved that most pupils who begin this course without definite aims, after the glamour has worn off, want to change to some other course.

The Latin-scientific course is the main course of the school in number of pupils and in its breadth. It is the course for all pupils who can attend four years, but whose education will end with the high school. Pupils beginning this course, and finding later that they can attend some higher institution, by taking indicated options for the fourth year, may be prepared for all college courses except the classical, for technology schools or for normal schools.

The English course is intended for those who cannot remain in school four years; it is a good course, but it does not prepare for any institution. Pupils from this course cannot enter the normal schools. It does, however, send pupils out with a good amount of English, science and history, and forms a good foundation for future self-education. Courses are chosen when pupils enter, with the consent of the parents, and cannot be changed except by consent of the School Committee.

#### SCIENCE WORK.

Effective science work should be laboratory work. The High school has now a good working laboratory. It affords desk-room for twenty pupils to do individual work in physics and chemistry, and has a good beginning in apparatus. It is fairly well equipped for botany work. It is proposed to make this work experimental, physiological rather than analytical. To this end plant life is studied from the seed, through the cycle of life to the seed again, making extensive use of the compound microscope and illustrative drawings.

In the first year at school every pupil is given 120 exercises in elementary physics, because in this age every pupil should know the elements of a subject which is, in a sense, the basis of all other scientific interest. It is intended to make this work individually experimental, that each pupil may observe and infer for himself.

At present the plan is carried out as far as possible. It is hoped that more apparatus may be added from year to year out of the regular school funds. This year over one hundred dollars have been expended for laboratory supplies and apparatus.

#### HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

In the High school, as in the other schools, it is impossible for a pupil to do good work unless he attends regularly. In the High school no pupil can do satisfactory work without at least three hours work outside of school each day. In the Grammar grades some home study should be done. The amount of home study should increase steadily from the seventh grade on. This home study has to be done under the supervision of the parents generally. In no way can the parents further the progress of their children in school more than by arranging regular hours of study for the pupils at home. In most cases, pupils who do not do the proper amount of home study do not gain promotion. A little help from the parents in this direction would do much for the best interests of the pupils.

The following members of the High school were neither absent nor tardy during the school year 1898-'99:

Louis J. Brainerd. Edith M. Gray.

Merton E. Twogood. George L. Warner.

#### HIGH SCHOOL AND NORMAL SCHOOLS.

Now, everything demanded in the normal preparation, including music, is provided in our schools. All High school graduates who propose to teach should obtain a normal school education.

#### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING EXERCISES.

HIGH SCHOOL, PALMER, MASS.

Class of 1899-Graduating Exercises.

IN THE OPERA HOUSE,

Friday Evening, June 30th, at 8 o'clock.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Processional.

ÓRCHESTRA.

Music,

"Country Fair Waltz."

Arranged from Abt by Marshall.

HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS.

Music,

ORCHESTRA.

Address.

"Democratic Scholarship."

PROF. GEO. B. CHURCHILL, OF AMHERST.

Music.

"Star of Evening." HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS.

Roeckel

Presentation of Diplomas,

REV. O. G. PETRIE.

Music.

ORCHESTRA.

Class Song. America.

CLASS OF 1899.

FOUR YEARS' CLASSICAL COURSE.

George William Adams. Ethel Estella Caryl.

Frank Lawrence Dillon.

Ruth Gager.

- Della Almira Hastings.

FOUR YEARS' LATIN SCIENTIFIC COURSE,

Josephine Agatha Brown.

James Patrick Crowley.

Martha Chase Ferry.

May Fiske.

Clifton Henry Hobson.

Fred Wilbur Powell.

Jennie May Wilder.

THREE YEARS' ENGLISH COURSE.

Bessie May Alexander. Catherine Louise Comstock.

Gertrude Collis Brown.

Lula Berdina Moulton.

Clifford Albert Henry. Lucretia Garfield Siske.

Class Motto, "Esse Quam Videri."

#### TEACHERS.

NAME.	Education.	Salary.	Year of Appointment.	Experience before ap- pointment.
HIGH SCHOOL.				
*A. C. Thompson	Yale	\$1,500 00	1897	5 Years
*Anna L. Fisherdick	Mt. Holyoke	600 00	1893	4¼ Years
*Mabel L Potter	Brown University	550 00	1899	3 Years
*Genevra F. Clark	Smith College	550 00	1899	3 Years
Palmer.				0 20002
*Gertrude Ball	Smith College	532 00	1899	5 Years
*Mertie M. Bunnell	Cortland Normal School	380 00	1897	7 Years
*Helen L. Robinson	Palmer High School	380 00	1886	
*Mabel J. Sedgwick	Mt. Holyoke	380 00	1893	1 Year
Lulu A. Dillon	Bridgewater Normal School	342 00	1898	
*M. Eloise Stone	Palmer High School	342 00	1899	5 Years
*Annie E. Tucker	Worcester Normal School	380 00	1896	10 Years
THORNDIKE. *Frances A. Terrill	Non-II Ot-1-N	*02.00	1000	00/ 77
*Mary I. Taylor	New Haven State Normal School.	532 00	1899	2% Years
*Annie E. O'Connor	Mt. Holyoke	380 00	1897	7½ Years
*Elizabeth G. Clifford.	Palmer High School	380 00	1890	
*Lucy B. Twiss	Westfield Normal School	380 00 380 00	$\frac{1897}{1896}$	
*Mary E. Murdock	Palmer High School	300 00	1990	
mardock	school	380 00	1874	
THREE RIVERS.	School,	300 00	1011	
*Helen L. Sweet	Oswego Normal School	608 00	1894	6 Years
*Jennie C. Twiss	Palmer High School	380 00	1894	0 10015
*Cora B Clark	Palmer High School	380 00	1890	
*Katharine M. Twiss	Palmer High School	380 00	1891	
*Annie B. Crane	Quincy Training School	380 00	1892	
BONDSVILLE.				
Mary E. Chandler	Bridgewater Normal School	532 00	1899	5 Years
Susan Merrill	Bates College	380 00	1899	4 Years
*Mary K. Pope	Bridgewater Normal School	380 00	1899	31/3 Years
*Annie A. Bishop	Palmer High School	380 00	1896	2 Years
*Mary C Whelan	Westfield Normal School	380 00	1396	3 Years
*Bridget M. Dowd	Dalaman III h O l			
*Minnie V. Andrews	Palmer High School	361 00	1892	***************************************
*Jennie M. Day	Briggewater Normal School	380 .00	1897	41/4 Years
Ellen T. McMahon	Springfield Training School	308 00	1897	5 Years
Josie M. Mahoney	Palmer High School	308 00	1898	
*Phebe D. Hastings	Smith College	308 00	1898	
DRAWING.	Smith College	266 00	1899	
*Gertrude M. Robinson	Mass. Normal Art School			
Music.	New Bedford Training School	400 00	1898	5½ Years
*Joana V. Cantwell	Monson Academy	400 00	1897	5 Years

<sup>\*</sup>These have also taken Summer School courses in methods and private courses in various subjects.

Recently the Secretary of the State Board of Education said that, "The schools in any town or city are as good as the citizens demand or as poor as the citizens will tolerate."

This town demands good schools. Good and competent men are selected for the School Committee. Since my connection with the Palmer schools, the members of the School Board have attended committee meetings regularly, and have devoted much time and attention to the many intricate school problems which constantly arise. This work is done without the least pecuniary reward. In some instances members of the Committee have made a great sacrifice of time to attend to matters concerning school administration. Although the people, for the most part, appreciate the unselfish devotion of the Committee to the schools in its charge, I feel that attention should be called to it.

The town has never refused to appropriate the amount of money necessary for school purposes. While this harmony exists between the town and its School Committee it will be possible to keep the schools up to their present high standard.

We are unable to pay our teachers as much as many of the towns and cities about us pay, consequently some of our strongest teachers are often drawn to more lucrative positions, yet we have a strong teaching force. Most of our teachers are Normal graduates, or teachers who have had training nearly an equivalent.

All of our teachers, save one, take some educational periodicals. Ninety-one per cent of them have done some pedagogical work or reading since July 1, 1899. These facts indicate an earnest, progressive spirit.

#### SCHOOL WORK.

The work accomplished in the schools for the past year has in the main been satisfactory. The teachers are conscientious and faithful, and endeavor to stimulate the activity and interest of each pupil. It is the aim to keep every pupil busy. Whenever a pupil demonstrates his ability to do work in a higher grade he is promoted instead of being held back until his grade is promoted. Thus pupils are encouraged to do their best work.

An effort has been made during the year to arouse in teachers and pupils an interest in elementary natural science, or nature study. Many books relative to the subject have been introduced.

Many children leave school early in life. Before they leave school it is important that they should know something of the relation of human life to other forms of life and to the physical forces upon which depend all forms of life.

Michelet says that, "if all the birds should die not a human being could live on the earth, for the insects on which the birds live would increase so enormously as to destroy all vegetables." It is not necessary to go into further detail to prove the wisdom of teaching in all grades some of the important facts in natural science.

In the High school greater emphasis has been put upon the importance of teaching English than ever before. Arrangements have been made so that class work in English is now on an equal footing with class work in any other subject.

It is not many years ago that high schools in general paid little attention to the teaching of English. That policy is now universally conceded to be wrong, and nearly all good high schools are paying more attention to instruction in the English language. Our High school is not behindhand in this important particular.

This is a time of unrest in school matters. Societies are multiplying, having for their object the discussion of problems relating to the intellectual well-being of the community. It is not strange, then, that there should be many calls for the modification of the course of study in schools. Often impatience is manifested because school authorities delay the engrafting of special features upon the school curriculum. There is a strong demand for practical studies, arithmetic being regarded as the chief one. Others urge that too much time is now given to this study, and that algebra and geometry should be substituted therefor in the higher grammar grades. introduction into grammar schools of Latin, French, German and Spanish is urged. Many urge the importance of nature study, and the necessity of a special teacher in this branch. Again, the merits of physical culture are brought to the foreground. Skilled instructors in this line are demanded. Manual training is suggested as the most important part of a school curriculum.

A law of the commonwealth—not enacted at the request of teachers—requires instruction with reference to the injurious effects of alcohol and narcotics upon the human system.

Kindergartens, vacation schools and evening schools are urged. Some even demand that the high school course shall embrace many subjects taught in college, and so on.

The advocates of each particular subject believe that they have discovered the panacea for all the evils inherent in the school system.

In all of these matters it has been our aim to maintain a conservative attitude. We have introduced algebra in the ninth grade. It is our purpose to give pupils of that grade enough algebra to enable them to apply it in the solution of mathematical problems. We try to keep abreast with the times, to avoid educational fads until it is proved that they possess merit.

#### EXPENSE.

It may be noted that the expense per pupil is a little larger than last year. This is largely due to the increased expense in connection with the extra schools. It is much more economical to operate schools in one building than to operate them in separate buildings. Many books and school supplies can be used by all of the pupils of one building in common. For a school outside it is often necessary to furnish sets of material at a large additional expense. It is hoped that in the near future accommodations will be furnished so that the extra schools will not be needed, thus the cost per pupil will be lessened.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the earnest efforts and hearty cooperation of all the teachers and supervisors, and for the continued confidence and support of the School Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A. C. THOMPSON, Superintendent of Schools.

# SUMMARY OF THE IMPORTANT FEATURES OF EDUCATIONAL LAWS.

"Whoever willfully and maliciously or wantonly and without cause, destroys, defaces, mars or injures a schoolhouse, church, or other building erected or used for purposes of education, or religious instruction, or for the general diffusion of knowledge, or an outbuilding, fence, well, or appurtenance of such schoolhouse, church, or other building, or furniture, apparatus, or other property belonging to or connected with such schoolhouse, church, or other building, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding one year."

"Every town and city shall maintain for at least 32 weeks in the year a sufficient number of schools for the instruction of all the children who may legally attend a public school therein."

"No child under 14 years of age shall be employed in any factory, workshop or mercantile establishment."

"No child under sixteen years of age shall be employed in any factory, workshop or mercantile establishment, until he has secured from the superintendent of schools, or from a person authorized by him, an age and schooling certificate. Such child must present an employment ticket from the intending employer when he applies for the age and schooling certificate.

"The father or mother, if living, must accompany the child, to sign the certificate of age; if neither the father nor mother are living, the guardian or custodian.

"Proof of correct age must be furnished if the age certificate does not agree with the school census."

"Every child between 7 and 14 years of age shall attend some public day school, or an approved private school, in the town or city in which he resides during the entire time the public day schools are in session.

"Any person having under his control a child between 7 and 14 years of age who fails for five day sessions or ten half-day sessions within any period of six months while under such control, to cause such child to attend school as referred above, the physical or mental condition of such child not being such as to render his attendance at school harmful or impracticable, shall, upon conviction, forfeit and pay a fine of not more than \$20.

"Every habitual truant, habitual absentee or habitual school offender, upon conviction, may be committed, if a boy to the County Truant School or to the Lyman School for boys, and if a girl to the State Industrial School for girls.

"No child who has not been duly vaccinated shall be admitted to a public school except upon presentation of a certificate signed by a regular practising physician that such child is an unfit subject for vaccination.

"No child who is a member of a household in which a person is sick with small pox, diphtheria, scarlet fever or measles, or of a household exposed to contagion from a household as aforesaid, shall attend any public school during such sickness or until the teacher of the school has been furnished with a certificate from the Board of Health of the town or city, or from the attending physician of such sick person, stating in a case of small pox, diphtheria or scarlet fever, that a period of at least two weeks, and in a case of measles a period of at least three days, has elapsed since the recovery, removal, or death of such person, and that danger of the conveying of such disease by such child has passed.

"The last regular session prior to Memorial Day, or a portion thereof, shall be devoted to exercises of a patriotic nature."

## Drawing Teacher's Report.

To the Superintendent and School Committee of the Town of Palmer:

I herewith submit to you my second report.

A general outline of the work in this department was published in my report of last year. There have been no important changes.

Colored pencils have been introduced into the lower grades, thus giving, even to the youngest pupils, the opportunity to observe color as well as form. The color of the leaves, grasses and flowers often means more to children than the form. They take a keener delight in their drawing if they are sometimes allowed to express themselves through what seems to them the most truthful way, the medium of color.

Colored chalk was introduced last fall. This was tried in nearly all the grades with excellent results. It was found to be especially adapted to the reproduction of fruits and vegetables.

More attention has been given to brush work this year than last. Both ink and water color have been used. A very marked improvement in this line of work has been noticed.

Nature work was given an important place during the spring and fall. The pupils drew or painted from the native flowers and plants. Some work was also done in conventionalizing the various plant forms, and using them in designing.

Good work has been done at various times during the year in designing book covers, cards, etc., for special days or occasions. This is practical work, and is greatly enjoyed by the pupils.

Some work has been done in the line of illustration. Even the youngest children are encouraged to illustrate simple stories, to picture their sports, to draw a snow storm, a rain storm, etc. On visiting the different schools, papers on the various subjects taught, history, geography, music, etc., are often shown me. These are illustrated by the pupils with marginal sketches neatly executed. The value of drawing is very apparent when it can be used by the pupil in this way to help express his thought.

The work in the districts follows as closely as possible the coures of study for the villages. It is somewhat modified to meet the difficulties with which the district teacher has to contend.

There has been a steady growth in the quality of the work during the past year. The standard of the upper grades has been raised considerably. The teachers have put into the work earnest and enthusiastic effort, and the pupils have shown interest and appreciation. Several changes have been made in the corps of teachers, but the new teachers have taken up the work of drawing in a careful and thoughtful manner, and are obtaining good results.

The fitting up of a drawing room at the High School has been of assistance to me in my work in that building. The room is a pleasant one, and is heartily appreciated.

Specimens of the work of the various schools of the town are kept at the High school building. Parents and friends of the pupils, as well as the members of the School Committee, are cordially invited to examine them.

I thank you for your interest and assistance.

GERTRUDE M. ROBINSON,

Supervisor of Drawing.

### Music Teacher's Report.

Mr. A. C. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools:

I present my third report of the music work in your schools.

A few changes in the presentation of the subject have been made this year, which have proved beneficial. After the scale is established in the first grade, exercises illustrating simple tune and time problems are taught by rote. A little interval work has been done from the staff, in different keys. The chart work has just been started, and I find that the pupils read as readily as when much more time was spent on the technicalities.

I regard the careful teaching of rote songs very important during the first three years of school. Hence these grades devote some time

every day to this work.

In addition to the work in the First Series of Charts, the First Normal Readers have been introduced in the second grade this year, with gratifying results.

Chord spelling constitutes a part of every lesson, beginning in the third grade. This work has made the introduction of two-voice

work in this grade less difficult.

The persistent, every-day singing of vocal exercises, major and minor scales, sung in different rhythms, has helped to improve the quality of tones.

This year the time names have been abandoned. New problems in time are taught by scale exercises, represented on the staff. This method has the advantage of being musical and practical, and it has been productive of good results.

Very little interval dictation has been used; drilling from staff

representation has taken its place.

During the fall term a written lesson was given every week in all grades from the second through the ninth. These lessons included tune and time tests, memory exercises, the writing of melodies, and

some technical work. The purchase of music paper for this purpose makes it possible to do the work quickly and neatly. In some schools some very pretty illustrated song work has been noticed.

I have heard the pupils of all the graded schools sing individually, with the exception of two rooms. These I have been obliged to postpone owing to lack of time. The grade teachers have continued this work as much as time would allow. The best class results follow when time is devoted to the individual effort.

In the grammar grades, beginning with the fifth, the First Normal Readers have been replaced by the Second Normal Readers. The study of the division of the beat, in two and three part measures, has begun. The chromatic tones, sharp four and flat seven, have been added to the scale vocabulary.

The districts that I have been able to visit thus far are doing commendable work. Owing to the number of grades in these rooms it has been found necessary to form three classes. The recitation period for each class is short, and results will naturally be slow. Yet this condition cannot be prevented.

The "Songs of the Nations" is a good collection of patriotic and standard favorite songs, which has been placed in the High school. With supplementary sheet music it has furnished excellent material for study. The pupils here are now writing chromatic and minor scales.

In providing all the teachers with chromatic pitch-pipes and blackboard liners, much time has been saved, and better work can surely be done by means of both.

I wish to emphasize the earnest work done by teachers and pupils. To you and the School Board I wish to express my appreciation for your continued help and generosity.

JOANA V. CANTWELL.

# Financial Statement.

#### TEACHERS' SALARIES.

#### HIGH SCHOOL.

A. C. Thompson,			\$1,460.00	
Anna L. Fisherdick,			600.00	
Grace G. Rickey,			220.00	
Henrietta Pratt,			220.00	
Genevra F. Clark,			330.00	
Mabel L. Potter,			330.00	
120001 20 2 0001,				\$3,160.00
	•			#0,20000
	DEPOT.			
Clara D. Eddy,			\$240.00	
Gertrude Ball,			322.00	4
Mertie M. Bunnell,			380.00	
Helen L. Robinson,			380.00	
Mabel J. Sedgwick,			380.00	
Ellen S. Leach,			158.62	
Annie E. Tucker,			380.00	
Lulu A. Dillon,			327.00	
,			-	\$2,567.62
	THORNDIKE.			
Emma F. Barney,			\$403.20	
Frances A. Terrill,		•	112.00	
Ellen S. Leach,			67.20	
Mary I. Taylor,			380.00	
Annie E. O'Connor,			380.00	
Elizabeth G. Clifford,			380.00	
Lucy B. Twiss,			365.00	
Mary E. Murdock,			380.00	
and an area of				\$2,467.40

THREE RIVERS.	<b>A 2 2 2 2 3</b>	
Helen L. Sweet,	\$608.00	
Jennie C. Twiss,	380.00	
Cora B. Clark,	380.00	
Katharine M. Twiss,	388.62	
Annie B. Crane,	380.00	
		\$2,136.62
BONDSVILLE.	<b>#</b> 242.00	
Dora P. Cleveland,	\$240.00	
M. Etta Chandler,	322.00	
Harriet B. Thayer,	150.00	
Grace E. Johnson,	150.00	
Annie A. Bishop,	365.00	
Mary C. Whelan,	380.00	
Susan Merrill,	230.00	
Mary K. Pope,	230.00	
		\$2,067.00
DISTRICTS.		
Bridget M. Dowd, Wire Mill,	\$353.50	
Minnie Andrews, Center,	365.00	
Jennie M. Day, Forest Lake,	308.76	
Ellen T. McMahon, Mason,	291.88	
Josie M. Mahoney, Shorley,	308.76	
	-	\$1,627.90
Total paid teachers,		\$14,026.54
CARE OF HOUSES.		
Henry L. Gray, Depot,	\$300.00	
W. H. H. Ryder, Depot,	17.25	
H T Bishon Thorndika	957 00	

Henry L. Gray, Depot,	\$300.00
W. H. H. Ryder, Depot,	17.25
H. T. Bishop, Thorndike,	257.00
John King, Thorndike and Bondsville,	28.75
William Praire, Three Rivers,	222.00
Daniel Lane, Three Rivers,	6.00
C. E. Fuller, Bondsville,	280.00
Peter Disley, Wire Mill,	5.00
B. M. Dowd, Wire Mill,	5.00
Mrs. Clem Disley, Wire Mill,	3.00
John C. Johnson, Wire Mill,	5.00
Samuel Brown, Center,	26.00

E. Keith, Forest Lake,	\$ 16.00
Charles Lafarr, Forest Lake,	4.00
Eugene Forsman, Mason,	17.00
Dennis Mahoney, Shorley,	15.00
***	<b>*</b> 1 20 <b>5</b> 00
Total for janitors and cleaning,	\$1,207.00

#### CONTINGENCIES.

Central Mass. Electric Co.,	\$ 17.09
C. L. Holden & Sons,	3.72
John P. Eastman,	10.00
Palmer Water Co.,	22.00
Emma F. Barney,	2.09
C. B. Fiske & Co.,	98.43
A. C. Thompson, prepayments,	21.54
U. S. Postoffice,	16.20
Dennis Mahoney,	2.00
S. H. Brown, freight and carting,	53.01
The Lukenheimer Co., steam whistles,	21.00
Charles N. Shaw, prepayment,	.72
Odd Fellows Opera House,	30.00
D. L. Bodfish,	1.10
Converse House,	1.00
H. H. Paine,	6.00
Prof. George B. Churchill, address,	25.00
Clara D. Eddy,	1.50
Bowen & Son, repairing typewriter,	5.80
H. S. Hobson,	1.50
W. E. Stone,	10.00
H. W. McGregory,	5.00
Oscar C. Marcy,	1.00
John K. Knox, census,	50.00
Mrs. E. M. Blanchard, oil stove,	5.00
Bentley L. Rice, tuning piano,	2.50
Dr. J. C. Boulay,	5.00
Chas. E. Fuller,	4.23
John F. Luman,	5.00
C. E. Shumway,	1.50
E. S. Brooks,	1.00

William Praire,	\$ 5.00
Dr. J. P. Schneider,	3.00
A. C. Thompson, salary,	500.00

\$937.93

# TEXT BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

	SCITIFIE.
Silver, Burdett & Company,	\$ 89.80
Eagle Pencil Company,	157.15
Educational Publishing Company,	72.42
Thompson, Brown & Co.,	5.76
J. H. Porter,	10.50
C. A. LeGro,	78.72
Ginn & Company,	300.77
D. C. Heath & Co.,	83.59
Rand, McNally & Co.,	23.25
T. H. Castor & Co.,	12.00
H. G. Loomis,	27.15
Edward E. Babb & Co.,	603.63
Shaw Bros.,	3.75
F. S. Blanchard & Co.,	3.00
James D. Taite,	4.50
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.,	23.27
Harper & Brothers,	12.80
Boston School Supply Co.,	3.34
Thos. R. Shewell & Company,	38.84
C. B. Fiske & Co.,	11.50
Department of the Interior,	4.00
Ellis Publishing Co.,	19.50
D. W. Fisher & Co.,	4.49
Cupples & Schoenhof,	13.06
C. A. Brown & Co.,	18.25
Lee & Shepard,	5.15
The American Book Company,	59.86
University Publishing Co.,	20.80
W. D. Jackson,	10.21
J. L. Hammett Company,	49.18
Allyn & Bacon,	8.31
Charles Cook & Son,	7.00
Lothrop Publishing Company,	4.80

A. B. Dick Company, F. D. Barton, Joseph Gillott & Sons, W. E. Stone, C. L. Holden & Sons,	\$ 16.05 6.95 9.75 2.00 4.06	\$1,829.16
REPAIRS.		
	\$ 14.48	
T. D. Potter & Co.,	11.30	
Thorndike Company,	78.87	
R. G. McIntire, W. F. Fillmore,	2.40	
John F. Sullivan,	10.00	
M. Lafarr,	3.00	
Michael B. Foley,	13.50	
John F. Twiss,	23.00	7
F. F. Marcy,	150.67	
Hawkes & Paulin,	36.05	*
Charles S. Ruggles,	13.07	
John Wilson,	12.20	
W. Hitchcock,	62.80	
Newell S. Taylor,	3.55	
A. M. Bond,	1.58	
C. A. Brown & Co.,	4.09	
C. II. Brown as con,		\$440.56
DIVIDE	•	
FUEL.	ø1 991 00	
J. F. Holbrook & Son,	\$1,321.99 87.20	
J. W. Miller,	15.88	
Dennis Mahoney.	1.00	*
James A. Hamilton,	12.75	
Anders Nielson,	30.00	
John O. Hamilton,		\$1,468.82
TRANSPORTATI	ON.	
Palmer & Monson Street Railway Co.,		<b>\$</b> 734.96
1 aimer & Bronson Street Raining Conf		
DRAWING.		****
Gertrude M. Robinson,		\$400.00

#### MUSIC.

MUSIC.		
Joana V. Cantwell,	\$360.00	
Silver, Burdett & Co.,	112.01	
	-	\$472.01
INSURANCE.		
S. H. Hellyar,	\$ 5.25	
Arthur E. Fitch,	7.87	
		\$13.12
EXTRA SCHOOLROOM	М.	
M. Eloise Stone,	\$207.00	
Phebe D. Hastings,	161.00	
Grand Rapids School Furniture Works,	90.57	
H. G. Loomis,	25.25	
F. F. Marcy,	12.69	
J. F. Holbrook & Son,	38.10	
E. Harvey,	7.00	
T. J. Chalk,	5.00	
Palmer Lodge, No. 190, I. O. O. F.,	200.00	
H. A. Northrop,	2.25	
		\$748.86
TUITION.		
Town of Wilbraham,	\$17.09	
Town of Warren,	42.00	
		\$59.09

#### BALANCE ACCOUNT.

Dr.		Cr.
\$13,900.00	Teachers' salaries,	\$14,026.54
1,000.00	Care of houses,	1,207.00
900.00	Contingencies and superintendent,	937.93
900.00	Text books and supplies,	1,829.16
500.00	Repairs,	440.56
1,500.00	Fuel,	1,468.82
900.00	Transportation,	734.96
400.00	Drawing,	400.00
535.39	Dog tax.	
309.18	Mass. school fund.	
34.34	Merrick fund.	
*464.36	Tuition, receipts, etc.,	59.09
	SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.	
400.00	Music,	472.01
175.00	Insurance,	13.12
1,000.00	Extra schoolroom,	748.86
	Balance returned to Treasurer,	580.22
\$22,918.27		\$22,918.27

\*This amount includes \$105 paid by the town of Monson for tuition, and \$50 paid by C. L. Holden for old school radiators. These items were included in the sum returned by the Town Treasurer last year, but as they were not received by the School Committee until after its report of last year was distributed, they could not be included in that report.

#### AUDITORS' REPORT.

We hereby certify that we have examined the books and accounts of the School Committee, and find them correct in every respect.

S. H. HELLYAR, Auditors. C. K. GAMWELL,





